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# ADVISE AND DISSENT

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THE ARROGANCE OF POWER. By J. William Fulbright. Preface by Francis A. Wilcox. 264 pp. New York: Random House. \$4.95.

By MAX FRANKEL

**A**N urbane, even casual man, Senator Fulbright would readily prefer to be a regular guest at the White House foreign-policy luncheon every Tuesday so that he could quietly nudge at the views of the Secretaries of State and Defense, gain the occasional satisfaction of influencing a Presidential decision, and then return to Capitol Hill to be the thoughtful spokesman and dignified legislative lieutenant of his party's Administration.

Instead, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has suddenly become the most celebrated public critic of the nation's foreign politics, the televised prosecutor of the policy-makers, the petulant champion of Congressional prerogatives against executive encroachment, a hero of the New Left and a Nervous Nellie in the eyes of Lyndon Johnson, who only a few years ago urged President Kennedy to make the Senator his Secretary of State.

Senator Fulbright's drift toward total dissent so late in political life is remarkable enough, a personal passage yet to be explored and explained. His new book, "The Arrogance of Power," is more remarkable still because it gropes for a doctrine of dissent that transforms mere criticism into bitter condemnation. It portends, or perhaps already bespeaks, the alienation of a great many thoughtful citizens from their government.

No longer merely objecting to the war in Vietnam or the Dominican intervention, the Senator fears that we have nominated ourselves to be the Lord's agents on earth and that we are marching to disaster with "an exaggerated sense of power and an imaginary sense of mission," much as the Athenians marched to Syracuse and Napoleon and Hitler to Russia.

From disagreement with the na-



Senator J. William Fulbright in his Senate office.